

SAFETY ALERT



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER & FORT POLK
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AFZX-SA


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MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Soldier Injury Involving a Privately Owned Weapon (POW) -- Safety Alert 05-05

1. A Soldier recently shot himself in the leg with a pistol at an off-post location.
2. The apparent causes of this incident include the following:
 - a. The transporting of a loaded weapon with a round in the chamber.
 - b. The Soldier's apparent ignorance of clearing procedures.
 - c. The Soldier's apparent over confidence.
3. While handling POWs, Soldiers must use principles of weapons discipline learned from military training. These principles include muzzle awareness, safe transportation, and proper clearing.
4. All Soldiers can learn valuable lessons from this incident. Never transport a loaded POW, check that no rounds are chambered, remove the magazine before transporting, and always ensure POWs are cleared properly.
5. Given the potential consequences, we must ensure that all firearms are handled safely.

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION, BRIEF TO ALL SOLDIERS, AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS.


MICHAEL D. BARBERO
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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